## REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL

#### TO

### OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE: May 20, 2015

ANALYST: Jaime Amrhein

I. COMMITTEE:

David Vitter for U.S. Senate

C00394593

William Vanderbrook, Treasurer 2900 Clearview Pkwy, Suite 206

Metairie, LA 70006

II. RELEVANT STATUTES:

52 U.S.C. § 30104(b) 11 CFR § 102.9 11 CFR § 102.15 11 CFR § 104.3

#### III. BACKGROUND:

Other Violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act (Unauthorized Use of Committee Funds)

David Vitter for U.S. Senate ("the Committee") filed the 2014 Year-End Report disclosing a partial restitution payment for unauthorized activity totaling \$14,420.00.

On January 30, 2015, the Committee filed the 2014 Year-End Report covering the period from October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. The report disclosed one (1) receipt on Schedule A, supporting Line 15 (Other Receipts) of the Detailed Summary Page totaling \$14,420.00 (Image 15020080216, Attachment 2). The report also included memo text, which stated:

"The receipt on Line 15 from the US Treasury is a partial repayment of funds diverted from the Committee by an outside vendor. The list of donors is pending and will be included as a memo on a future FEC report when received from the U.S. District Court" (Image 15020080205).

On April 6, 2015, the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Analyst contacted William Vanderbrook, the Committee's Treasurer, to discuss the Committee's disclosure of unauthorized activity on the 2014 Year-End Report. Mr. Vanderbrook stated that a subcontractor of an outside vendor used by the Committee for direct mail services (not an employee of the Committee) diverted contributions made to the Committee using a Post Office Box. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Justice (DoJ) prosecuted the individual responsible and are working to recover the misappropriated funds. Mr. Vanderbrook stated that Committee received \$14,420.00 in partial restitution of the diverted funds from the United States District Court, which the Committee disclosed on Line 15 of the 2014 Year-End Report. The Committee was waiting to receive authorization from the FBI to publicly disclose the identity of the embezzler and a list of the diverted contributions. The RAD Analyst advised Mr. Vanderbrook to have the Committee file a Miscellaneous Paper Document ("Form 99") disclosing the name of the vendor responsible and the list of affected contributions as soon as they receive authorization from the FBI. The Analyst also directed Mr. Vanderbrook to the embezzlement guidance and sua sponte submission policy on the Commission's website and recommended the Committee's counsel review those materials (Attachment 3).

On April 10, 2015, the RAD Analyst called Mr. Vanderbrook and left a message with his secretary asking him to return the call (Attachment 3).

On April 14, 2015, the RAD Analyst called Mr. Vanderbrook to inform him that the Treasurer of other committees affected by the same embezzlement had notified RAD Management that the FBI authorized them to identify the embezzler on the public record. The Analyst asked if Mr. Vanderbrook could file an amended report to disclose this information for the Committee. Mr. Vanderbrook stated that the Committee had not yet received this authorization or the list of diverted contributions from the FBI, but the Committee would call their FBI contact to obtain it. The Analyst advised Mr. Vanderbrook to file an Amended 2014 Year-End Report with a revised memo text to state the name of the embezzler and any additional information received from the FBI, including an attached list of affected contributions. Mr. Vanderbrook stated he would work with the FBI and file an amended report within the next week (Attachment 3).

On April 30, 2015, the RAD Analyst called Mr. Vanderbrook to check on the status of their Amended 2014 Year-End Report. Mr. Vanderbrook apologized for the delay and stated he would file the amended report by the end of the next day. Mr. Vanderbrook explained that the subcontractor, Stonewood Marketing, owned by Ken Pate, was responsible for the embezzlement. The Committee revised the memo text to include this information on the amended report. The Analyst asked if the Committee had also received the list of diverted contributions, and Mr. Vanderbrook said they had not. Mr. Vanderbrook explained that the Committee's funds from this vendor were kept in an escrow account, to which the Committee did not have direct access for compiling the list of diverted contributions. Therefore, the Committee cannot disclose the list of affected contributions until they receive that information from the FBI (Attachment 3).

On May 6, 2015, the Committee filed an Amended 2014 Year-End Report with no changes in receipts on Schedule A, supporting Line 15. However, the Committee did provide additional detail in memo text attached to the report, which stated:

"This Amended report is to clarify the memo text as part of original report filed on January 24, 2015. The receipt disclosed on line 15 from the US Treasury is a partial repayment of funds diverted from the campaign by a subcontractor, Stonewood Marketing (owner Ken Pate), of an outside vendor of the campaign. The Committee will report the contributor detail when it is made available to the Committee by the investigating agencies" (Image 15020165140).

To date, no further communications have been received from the Committee regarding this matter.

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# David Vitter for U.S. Senate (C00394593)

# Restitution Payment Received

2014 Year-End Report (Image 15020080216)

Name of Payer	Date	Amount	Memo Text
United States Treasury	10/10/14	\$14,420.00	Other Receipt
Total Restitution Paymen	i <b>t:</b>	\$14,420.00	